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DE RUEHSJ #0254 0401744
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 091744Z FEB 07
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7192
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0738
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0293

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 000254

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DEPT FOR WHA/CEN, IO/RHS AND DRL/MGA

E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: COSTA RICA WILL NOT PURSUE UNHRC SEAT

REF: SAN JOSE 202

1. (U) Further to Reftel, we have continued to follow up with MFA contacts re GOCR interest in a seat on the UN Human Rights Council. While Deputy Director for Foreign Policy Alejandro Solano earlier had shared our concerns about the negative impact of Venezuela taking a seat on the UNHRC, he was emphatic that the GOCR did not have the "institutional capacity" to focus on more than one major UN election campaign at a time. Therefore, Costa Rica's "one and only" UN election focus for 2007 likely would be for the upcoming GRULAC vacancy on the Security Council, he stressed.

2. (U) On February 5, Antonio Alarcon, CoS to FM Bruno Stagno subsequently confirmed his earlier preliminary response (REFTEL) and echoed Solano's comments: Costa Rica will not pursue any UN candidacies in 2007 other than for the UNSC. Alarcon, who conferred briefly with Stagno while Poloffs waited in his office, made clear that his definitive response came directly from the FM. Alarcon joked that the best alternative candidate for GOCR might be the Dominican Republic, if this removed the DR from the GRULAC UNSC race.
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